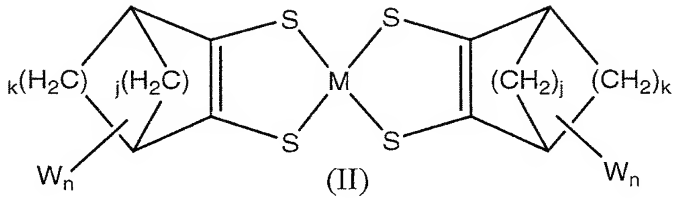
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. Cancelled

20. (Currently Amended) A method of minimizing absorption of visible light in an ink composition comprising an IR-absorbing metal-dithiolene dye~~The method of claim 9~~, wherein the dye is preselected from a metal-dithiolene of formula (II):



(II)

wherein:

M is selected from Ni, Pd or Pt (preferably Ni);

j is selected from 1, 2, 3 or 4;

k is selected from 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

W is a hydrophilic group;

up to three $-(CH_2)-$ groups in the carbocycle are optionally replaced by a group independently selected from –C(O)–, –NH–, –S-, –O–;

up to three –CH– groups in the carbocycle may be optionally replaced by –N–; and

up to four H atoms in the carbocycle may be optionally replaced a group independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{5-12} aryl, C_{5-12} arylalkyl, halogen, hydroxyl or amino.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein M is Ni.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein j is 1 and k is 2.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said dye comprises a $-C(C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2-$ bridging group.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein n is 1.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein W is selected from a substituent comprising a PEG chain; a substituent comprising an ammonium group; a substituent comprising an acid group, including salts thereof; or a substituent comprising a sulfonamide group.

26. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein W is a substituent comprising a group of formula $-CO_2Z$, $-SO_3Z$, $-OSO_3Z$, $-PO_3Z$ or $-OPO_3Z$, wherein Z is H or a water-soluble cation.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein W is of formula $-(CH_2)_t-SO_3Z$, wherein t is 0 or an integer from 1 to 6, and Z is H or a water-soluble cation.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein W is of formula $-CH_2SO_3H$, $-CH_2SO_3Na$ or $-CH_2SO_3K$.

29-56. Cancelled